

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent
A Service of Holy Communion

Led by the Holy Spirit, LaGrave's members seek to worship and serve God in all of life, transforming His world and being transformed to reflect the character of Christ.

Welcome to worship at LaGrave. Because our worship proceeds without announcements, please carefully follow the order of worship printed below, noting that we use *two* different red hymnals. The *Worship & Rejoice* hymnal will be indicated by bold, italic type. An asterisk (*) denotes standing for those who are able. We are glad that you are here. Let us worship God together.

MORNING WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Please prepare your heart and mind for worship with a time of prayer and meditation.

God Calls Us to Worship

The Prelude:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"	Raymond H. Haan
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"	Wilbur Held
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"	Raymond H. Haan
"In Sweet Communion, Lord, with You"	Larry Visser

The Chiming of the Hour

The Introit:

"This Is the Threefold Truth"
This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends, and with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:

Refrain: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

On this we fix our minds as, kneeling side by side, we take the bread and wine from him, the crucified: (Refrain)

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*The Processional Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 61:1,4,6,7
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*The Greeting

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

The Welcome

We Approach our God

The Call to Confession:

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom.

The Lord will save us from our sins and fears.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the yearling together, and a little child shall lead them.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Isaiah 11:6, 41:10

The Sung Prayer for Advent: Lift Up Your Hearts 480

"Wait for the Lord" (*Sing twice*)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier, from Songs and Prayers from Taizé 1991
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The Prayer of Confession:

As we await your coming, Jesus, we confess that you are more eager to hear from us than we are to cry to you. You are as close to us as our own breath; yet when the cold fingers of fear clutch our hearts, we forget to breathe. When we fear the loss of health, or relationships, or ways of life we know and love, remind us that you are our life. Drive away fears that keep us paralyzed. Center us in the security we have in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:14-16

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 70:1,2,4

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

"Be Not Afraid"
Craig Courtney
Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will

be with you: when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end. You are mine, you are precious in my sight.

Based on Isaiah 43:1-4

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The Children's Message

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: Isaiah 7:1-17

The Sermon: "MAKING THE CROOKED STRAIGHT: A SAVIOR WHO CALMS OUR FEARS"

The Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 456:1,3,4

"Shepherd Me, O God"

Soloist sings the verses, Congregation sings the refrain

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We Come to the Table of the Lord

The Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

We praise you that Jesus was willing to lay aside his divine power and take the form of a servant.

We give you thanks that he came down from heaven, was born of the virgin Mary, and gave his life for us and for our salvation.

Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

we sing:

All praise to you eternal son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

The Prayer of Consecration

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.**

The Sharing of Christ's Body

The Sharing of Christ's Blood

*The Closing Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 88:1,3,4
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*The Benediction

*The People's Response: **Amen.**

*The Organ Amen

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude: "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending"
William Lloyd Webber

Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Calin Muresan – cellist
Jason Reiffer – vocalist
Brooke Elenbaas Family – acolytes

Music at LaGrave

The consoling words of Isaiah 43:1-4 provide the context for Craig Courtney's poignant vocal piece *Be Not Afraid*. In his composition, Courtney combines a stirring, ever-rising vocal melody, an instrumental obbligato introducing and echoing the vocal part, a key change in the final stanza, and an ever-flowing piano accompaniment. The piece concludes with the comforting thought that each of us is a child of God, precious in his sight.

The banners and parament for Advent help us focus on the message from Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:6) In Advent we celebrate the coming of Christ. His glorious, heavenly light breaks forth in the darkness and brings us the hope of a new day.

The December special offering is for Next Step of West Michigan which offers skill training and employment for the vulnerable population including ex-offenders and those in rehab. The organization engages in light wood working and assembly, general contracting and sub-contracting services to businesses, city entities and property owners.